



Exhibit A - STATEMENT OF THOMAS K. ANKNEY

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: GARY A. KASPER AND THOMAS K. ANKNEY

For: UPRIGHT VACUUM CLEANER WITH CYCLONIC SEPARATION

Serial No.: 10/038,568

Examiner:

Filed: 01/03/2002

Group Art Unit: 1744

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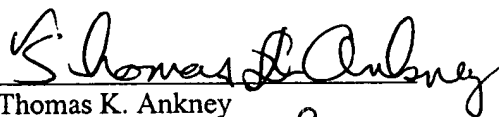
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

**STATEMENT OF THOMAS K. ANKNEY**

I, Thomas K. Ankney, residing at 2000 Hall Street, S.E., East Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506, an unnamed joint inventor of an invention in the above identified patent application, hereby state that the error in inventorship in failing to join me as a joint inventor in the above identified patent application occurred without deceptive intent on my part.

Dated: 3/26/02

  
Thomas K. Ankney

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